

PIONEER PATHWAYS

HISTORY OF WASATCH COUNTY

283

frame schoolhouse in 1873. He hauled it to Lake City by wagon. The rock schoolhouse hall, was built in 1889. This was the first school built with stones from the Heber

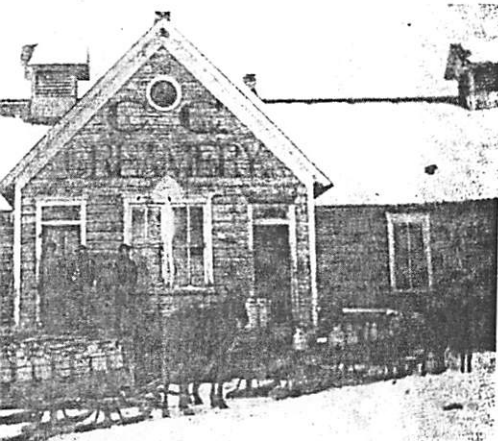
meat market was George North. He bought and sold produce such as hay, and a wagon for many years to Park City, and went to Salt Lake City for merchandise

Charleston, built about 1884, was built by one who came from American Fork.

The first bridge to be built across the Provo Highway was built in the summer of 1892, and came from Heber City.

Trains to come to Charleston came at 2:00 p.m. and six carloads of people from Provo free of charge. The first train to come to Wasatch County. It was the first time that most of the residents were at the depot. At that time, there were two trains a day."

There was a small creamery on his farm and operated too large for the building. Then J. R. North and built a larger building and the new Creamery. At one time they employed they had seven milk wagons hauling in milk and bought around 21,000 gallons of milk and shipped out of the area to places as



Creamery in Charleston, 1894.
Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

William Wright was employed as toll gate keeper at Spring Dell in Provo Canyon for many years. He also taught some of the first schools in Charleston.

Mrs. North recalls that an amusement and dance hall was built in 1891. As the town grew, the schoolhouse was no longer large enough so some of the children went to classes in the amusement hall. The hall was later donated to the ward for a churchhouse.

In 1900 Dock Stevensen built and operated a saloon on the corner where Bill North's Service Station later stood. An open air dancing pavilion was built by P. C. Allen in 1915 and operated for two summers.

In 1938, work commenced on the Deer Creek Reservoir on the Provo River, and many Charleston residents were forced to relocate as hundreds of acres of choice lands would be underwater. The construction of the dam and reservoir brought about the decline of Charleston, and the town became a residential and farming area with almost no business district.²³



Early photograph of Wallsburg. Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

WALLSBURG

Wallsburg, or Round Valley as it was once known, is located fourteen miles south of Heber City. The Indians called it Little Warm Valley. It was renamed Wallsburg after William Madison Wall, a native of North Carolina, who was a founder of the area and one of its first citizens. Wall had previously been a marshall in Provo and was one of the most skillful Indian negotiators among the Mormons. He frequently served assignments for President Brigham Young in pacifying the Indians.

The temperature in this secluded valley is somewhat warmer than in other parts of the county, and the growing season is a little longer. The valley is enclosed on three sides by mountains with access into the valley from the north end, making it ideal for grazing cattle.

The first group of settlers to go into the valley over the new road in Provo Canyon were George Washington Bean, William Meeks, Aaron Daniels, and William Wall. The Beans and Walls settled near the neck of the canyon in the south end of the valley where they had established their headquarters during the construction of the road. Daniels and Meeks went further north.

George Washington Bean, a surveyor and Indian interpreter along with his brother James, was active in getting the new canyon road built. He was the first to take up ground in Round Valley, and in the fall of 1860, he sold his holdings in Provo Valley to his father-in-law William M. Wall so he could spend more time improving his holdings in Round Valley. By 1864 he was no longer in Round Valley.

The early settlers still had property in Provo and spent only part of their time in Round Valley. By the winter of 1864-65, it became a permanent settlement with at least five families including William Wall, George Brown, William Jasper Boren, Dixon H. Greer, and one or possibly two other families.

Because of his leadership ability, Wall was called to serve as the presiding elder in Provo Valley and was responsible for all Church activity in the new area until 1861 when Joseph S. Murdock was sent by Brigham Young to be bishop of the new ward in Heber City. Wall continued to lead Church activities in Round Valley until his death September 18, 1869.

Other early settlers in Round Valley were Enoch and James Gurr and their families. Later came J. W. Boren, Moses Mecham, Edward Stokes, James and Reuben Allred, Guy Kaiser, George Brown, Luke Burdick, and Francis Kerby.

One Sunday afternoon in the spring of 1865, as Wall was conducting the Sabbath meeting, a messenger came from Heber City with word that the Indians were on the warpath under the direction of Chief Black Hawk and his brother Chief Tabby. The people were instructed to leave Round Valley and go to Heber City. The people packed what belongings they could and left the next morning for Heber City.

The settlement in Round Valley was at least a day's wagon ride away from the other settlers in the valley, so it was decided in 1865 to build a fort in Round Valley for protection. A fort, which was four hundred feet square, was built and twenty families moved into it for protection from the Indians. A one-room log house was built inside the fort for church, school, and entertainment.

On
was ap
Round
first cit

To
A few o
eral sto
1960. F
was kno
in 1994

The
brick bu
lt close
phone s
arrived

The
south of
settlers
the mou
was the
Bethers
area, an
the Cent



PIONEER PATHWAYS

HISTORY OF WASATCH COUNTY

285

by is somewhat warmer than
in season is a little longer.
mountains with access into the
for grazing cattle.

the valley over the new road in
Dean, William Meeks, Aaron
Valls settled near the neck of
where they had established
on of the road. Daniels and

and Indian interpreter along
the new canyon built.
and Valley, and in all of
the father-in-law of
holding and

On July 15, 1877, an LDS ward was organized, and William E. Nuttall was appointed bishop. It was unanimously decided at that time that Round Valley should be named Wallsburg in honor of its founder and first citizen.

Today Wallsburg is a compact little valley with many beautiful homes. A few of the old buildings still remain. One of these is Elmo Ford's general store built in 1890 and operated as part of the ZCMI system until 1960. From 1919 to 1958 it was run by Alfred Ford; from 1958 to 1994 it was known as Elmo Ford's Mercantile. A son of Elmo took the store over in 1994 but closed it in 1998.

The Wallsburg school, constructed in 1904, was a large two-story brick building which today stands empty on a hill overlooking the town. It closed in 1961, and students are now bused into Heber City. Telephone service came to the little community in 1900 when the first line arrived at George A. Dabbling's store.²⁴

